

To: Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Field Museum

From: John Rowe

Date: April 11, 2012

For the past 6 months, the Field Museum Search Committee has faced a daunting task: the search for a successor to John McCarter, Jr., who is retiring later this year. John's contributions to our museum, and to our city, are enormous. Filling his shoes is a huge challenge.

Our Committee has been assisted in this difficult effort by the global executive search firm Spencer Stuart, which assembled an impressive roster of exceptionally qualified candidates reflecting great gender, ethnic, and career diversity. After many in-depth interviews, tough decisions, and robust dialog among our members -- which was driven by our great respect for the candidates -- the Committee has found an individual to build on John's significant accomplishments. We have found a candidate with the passion to preserve the heart of the Field, and the leadership and vision to move the Museum forward.

On behalf of the Search Committee, and with the strong endorsement of our former Chairman and current Board Member, John Canning, who has provided consistent guidance and support during this important process, I strongly propose Richard W. Lariviere to you as the next president of the Field Museum.

Richard has an outstanding record of scholarship, academic accomplishments, and business leadership, as you will see in his attached biography. A former President of the University of Oregon, he is an expert on the Sanskrit language, and deeply supportive of the scientific endeavors of the Field. He has major fundraising experience. He is creative, inspired, and inspiring when he talks about the Museum.

Above all, Richard is committed to institutional integrity, and unwavering in his responsibility to the people and communities he serves. Never was this more evident than during his tenure as President at the University of Oregon. In the face of strong political differences in Oregon's complex university system, we believe Richard's work at the University of Oregon demonstrated courage, commitment, and passion. These are characteristics we value highly at the Field, and are exactly what's needed to build upon the superb legacy of John McCarter, and take the Museum into the future.

Richard is ready to hit the ground running. He understands the challenges we face. And frankly, he knows that John is a tough act to follow. I ask for your support of his appointment. Please know I enthusiastically accept the responsibility of helping achieve a smooth transition. As a native Chicagoan, Richard is very much looking forward to returning to the city that meant so much to him in his youth and to meeting each and every one of you, and our many stakeholders in this wonderful institution.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to the Field. I am very excited about our future, and look forward to our continued work together.